

WELCOME TO TERM 3

FROM GARTH WYNNE, EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL



Email and communication protocols01
Some Calendar events for Term 302
Staff changes02
Curriculum Review.....02

Immerse and Inspire begins03
Strategy 2020 – further refinement03
Parent engagement03



CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY
Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers

I trust you have enjoyed the seemingly short term break and it has enabled you to share some engaging quality time with your son(s). I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to ski at Cardrona for the first time and again found inspiration immersed in the South Island's truly magnificent scenery. Some of my Australian family crossed the ditch to join us for this holiday, and it was great to reconnect with them – something that was very good for the soul.

I would like to thank our Parents' Association for organising a wonderful end of Term 2 event with our Mid-Winter Drinks. This fine College tradition was enjoyed by all and is one that celebrates our strong sense of community. The next major social event for the whole school community is Cocktails on the Quad on Friday 15 September. This uses the venue created for the College Student Ball and promises exciting entertainment, dancing and a great night assured for all. We would love to see you there and encourage you to bring along your friends from the wider Christchurch community.

The start of Term 3 is the point of transition, the fulcrum between the beginning and ending of any school year. Consequently, it is very important for the senior boys in particular to consider how they will approach the imminent challenges of internal assessment and preparation for external exams. In a way, the academic programme is re-prioritised as the "first amongst equals" at College, in addition to managing the demands of a busy schedule of co-curricular activities, including – for example – Winter sports finals, tournament week and House Plays.

With this in mind, the term begins with boys in Years 10–12 meeting with Assistant Housemasters, and boys in Year 13 meeting with Housemasters, to consider goals achieved and goals to be set for the remainder of the year. It is important to learn from successes and failures in the first half of the year and use this learning to consider what is achievable in the remainder of the year. The programme of engagement between Assistant Housemasters and students continues to evolve, and we see this as becoming one of the most important relationships between College and parents and boys. Prior to these meetings taking place, I would ask you to take time to talk to your son(s) about what his expectations are for the next six months. We would like to see at each point in time that "each boy is at his best", but this is a collaborative process, which necessitates College, parents and boys working together, talking and listening and taking action. None of us can expect a different outcome if we keep doing the same thing and we should all believe we have the capacity to adapt and change – to develop a growth rather than a fixed mindset. This will be part of the conversation that College Counsellor John Quinn has with our Year 9 students on Monday afternoon. John will be talking to the boys about secondary school life and where to from here with regard to their health and wellbeing set against the complexity of all that adolescence demands.

Email and communication protocols

With an underlying focus on student, staff and parent wellbeing since the beginning of the year, College has been considering our use of email and electronic communication. The outcome has been the creation of more refined policy documents which have a number of expectations for the entire community. The most important aspect of these policies, which I ask you to adhere to, is that any communication, no matter what its form, is always conducted within reasonable work hours and in a manner which is respectful and polite. The email communication policy is particularly relevant in this matter and can be found [here](#). With the number of smart devices available and their compulsive distracting characteristics, we must be more caring of each other's time and the implicit demands of text or email notifications. I ask all parents and caregivers to take on board the expectations of this community-wide commitment to the more effective use of digital communication.



Some Calendar events for Term 3:

7 Aug	International Week
9 Aug	Big Band Southern Jam (Blenheim)
11 Aug	Year 13 Father & Son Breakfast with Michael Kimmel
24 Aug	NZCF Big Sing Finale (Aotea Centre, Auckland)
28 Aug	Senior Examinations Week
2 Sep	Smokefreerockquest National Finale (Auckland)
4 Sep	Winter Tournament week
9 Sep	Year 9 Father & Son Breakfast
14 Sep	House Play Festival – Night One (Cf, H, J, Ja, Ro)
16 Sep	College Ball
19 Sep	House Play Festival – Night Two (C, F, R, So, S)
20 Sep	Chapel Choir European tour
21 Sep	Year 11–13 Dayboy Parent/ Student/Teacher interviews
22 Sep	Year 11–13 Boarder Parent/ Student/Teacher interviews

Staff Changes

At the end of Term 2 we farewelled Mr Quentin Clough (Housemaster Corfe), Mr Nicholas Sutcliffe (Music, Religious Studies and English), our residential tutors Mr Andrew Macarthur and Ms Leanne Greenfield, our GAP Tutor Mr Ed Snelling and Mr John Adcock, who retired from his position of Property Manager after 30 years of service. We thank them all for their positive and significant contributions to College and wish them well for their next stage in life.

Mr Ian Stevenson

We are pleased to announce Ian Stevenson has been appointed Housemaster of Corfe House commencing at the beginning of Term 3.

Miss Nicole Billante

Nicole has kindly accepted the position of Acting Housemaster of Condell's House until the return of Mr Tony O'Connor in mid-August. Tony is currently on sabbatical leave coaching New Zealand Junior Rowing teams at the World Rowing Championships in Trakai, Lithuania.

Dr Mike Field

Mike joins us as a Physical Education/ Health and Mathematics teacher for Terms 3 and 4. Having taught Physical Education at Darfield High School for seven years (finishing in 2004), Mike stepped out into the corporate world as a General Manager and CEO in community agencies involved in youth training and wellbeing, including Cholmondeley Children's Home, and then ran his own family business. Mike is now eager to return to teaching. He has a keen interest in education, fitness and physical wellbeing and has completed a PhD through the University of Queensland on the benefits of sport and exercise for young adolescent men.

Mrs Rachel Adams

We are pleased to welcome Rachel Adams to the teaching staff of College. Rachel is an experienced, innovative and energetic teacher of Classical Studies, Social Science, English and History, and will be predominantly teaching the latter during Term 3. Having taught at Rathkeale College and Papakura High School, Rachel enjoys being an effective leader of digital learning and welcomes the challenge of assessing the needs of her students and shaping differentiated learning programmes for the best learning outcomes.

Mr Harry Meehan

Harry joins us this term as Music Tutor and Organist and we look forward to welcoming him to the College community. Harry is originally from Dublin. He is a graduate of Queen's College, Oxford, and obtained the prestigious Fellowship from the Royal College of Organists in 2015. Prior to coming to Christchurch as Assistant Organist, Christchurch Cathedral, he was Organist to the Christ Church College Choir, Oxford, where he accompanied and conducted the College Choir for their weekly services in the cathedral.

Mr Anthony McNamara

Anthony is excited to be joining our staff this term and will be involved as a resident tutor in the Immerse and Inspire programme in Jacobs House and as an Assistant Rowing Coach throughout next season. Since leaving school 10 years ago, Anthony has worked on cattle stations in the Northern Territory and Kimberley region of Western Australia, and has worked with the NRL and education programmes, and been involved with coaching and rowing programmes in Brisbane schools, including Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane Grammar School and Brisbane Boys' College.

Mr Sam Woodland

Sam joins us as our new GAP Tutor, from Richard Huish College, Taunton, Somerset.

Mr William Sorflaten

William is our new English Department Tutor, joining us from Downing College, Cambridge.

Ms Victoria Cartright

Victoria is our new Mathematics Department Tutor, from St Edmund Hall, Oxford.



Curriculum Review

At the end of Term 2 the College Executive received the outcome of a Curriculum Review which has been conducted by the Assistant Principal - Curriculum Joe Eccleton over the last twelve months.

This detailed consideration of the academic element of school life has unsurprisingly revealed that most important to us here at College is not so much what is taught, but the quality of teaching and learning that is taking place in each classroom. This is not to suggest that what we teach is not important, rather the content of our classes must be relevant and meaningful to the boys.

What this implies is that our emphasis moving forward must be on enhancing the quality of teaching and learning, as we look to develop the academic and intellectual capacity of each boy.

With this in mind, the review has made a number of suggestions regarding change in the academic organisation of College. We will now look at these recommendations and our capacity to implement these suggestions, aligned with our strategy, will be considered.

I take this opportunity to thank Joe and his "drive team" for their work. I will keep you informed as to the changes that transpire as an outcome of this review.

Immerse and Inspire begins

It is exciting to have reached the point where one of our new programmes "Immerse and Inspire" for Year 10s will commence. In this, its "trial term", over 60 boys will live on campus in Jacobs House for a period and all boys from Year 10 will have the opportunity to participate in enriched programmes which incorporate special leadership and character elements. The leadership lounge which has been built on the top floor of Jacobs House will provide a special place for what is hoped to be a transformational programme at a pivotal time in a boy's growth and development. In 2018, the programme will involve all Year 10 boys across Terms 2 and 3. Our greatest difficulty this year was through random selection, having to disappoint boys who wanted to have the boarding element as a part of their Year 10 life.

What has been very pleasing for me has been the way in which our Year 10 boys have taken on the Ministry of Awesome social entrepreneurship programme – Lab5 – that commenced in Term 2. Some of the ideas produced by the boys have been inspirational and I thank them for their enthusiasm, energy, creativity and collaboration.



Strategy 2020 - further refinement

Thank you to those parents who have given me feedback with regard to the high level strategy which was shared with you in the Term 2 Newsletter. Further refinement has occurred and I include [here](#) our latest document which is to be discussed at our next Board meeting along with more detailed operational plans to enable this strategy to unfold. I am sure parents can recognise we are on the way, but appropriate checks and balances now need to be considered. Any further feedback to me will be appreciated.

Parent engagement

We were fortunate last term to have a number of quality speakers come to College to share insights around issues associated with parenting and other matters of interest. This term, once again, our programme will be enriched in a number of ways through our guest speakers. I encourage all parents and caregivers to join with us to listen and learn from some truly exceptional leaders. Further information to come, but I particularly want to highlight the following three events:

Tuesday 1 August 2017, 7.30pm, Old Boys' Theatre
Parent Education Evening - What is Wellbeing and Positive Education?

Positive education is the application of the science of positive psychology in an educational setting. It promotes the holistic wellbeing of children, educators, staff and the wider College community.

Come along to hear our Director of Wellbeing and Positive Education John Quinn and College parent and expert in the field of positive psychology Dr Lucy Hone give an introduction to the science of positive psychology – including examples of in-school practice and supporting empirical evidence – and how this will be embedded at Christ's College.

Wednesday 9 August, 7.30pm, Old Boys' Theatre
Thought Leader - Michael Kimmel - Why gender equality is good for everyone - men included!

Sociologist Michael Kimmel is one of the world's leading researchers and writers on men and masculinity. He is the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities at Stony Brook University, where he is also Distinguished University Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies.

He is the author of many books, including *Manhood in America*, *Angry White Men*, and the best seller *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*. An activist for gender equality for more than 30 years, he was recently called "the world's preeminent male feminist" by *The Guardian*.

Thursday 10 August, 7.30pm, Chapman Room
Centre for Ethics & Spirituality - The Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy is the 45th Dean of Christ Church, Oxford and one of the world's leading academics. He was educated at the Universities of Bristol, Durham, London (King's) and Sheffield and ordained after a career in publishing. Martyn is a member of the Faculty of Theology at Oxford University, Professor of Theological Education at King's College London and Professorial Research Fellow at Heythrop College, University of London.

Martyn writes and teaches on modern ecclesiology. His recent books include *Anglicanism: Confidence, Commitment and Communion* (Ashgate) and *Thirty-Nine New Articles: An Anglican Landscape of Faith* (Canterbury Press). Martyn is married to the Revd Dr Emma Percy, Chaplain and Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, and they have two sons, Benjamin and Joseph.